

HISTORICAL LIBRARIES OF THE CITY AND THEIR CONTENTS

WAR DEPARTMENT LIBRARY

BEST Known Is the Library of the State Department, Which Contains the Original Draft of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the Articles of Confederation—Finest Collection of Rare Engravings and Naval Records Are in the Navy Department Library—History of the Royal George and Other Valuable Naval Books on the Shelves—War Department Library Contains 55,000 Volumes, Many of Which Are of Great Value and Can Not Be Duplicated.

In the State, War and Navy building are three of Washington's oldest and most complete libraries. They afford interest in a hundred and one different ways other than the mere fact that they contain books. They are the archives of the State, War and Navy departments.

Best known of these is the library of the State Department, on the third floor, wherein the original draft and the original signed copy of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and the articles of confederation are kept. This library was founded by Thomas Jefferson in 1789 and consists of 65,000 volumes and 2,500 pamphlets, and now is a part of the division of rolls and library, the chief of which is Frank M. McNier.

This division might well be called the successor to the committee on foreign correspondence established prior to the definitive treaty of peace of 1782 and the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, for until recently it was the custodian of the papers and journals of the Continental Congress, the papers of Washington, Jefferson, Madison and others which have been transferred by executive order to the Library of Congress.

In the library of the State Department are kept all original acts of Congress, all treaties to which the United States is a signatory power, all proclamations and executive orders, all papers relating to the claims commissions, arbitrations and boundary surveys.

The original draft of the Declaration of Independence is on exhibition to visitors, but the original signed copy of this document and the Constitution and the articles of confederation are not. Corrections made by Franklin and Adams can be seen in the original draft, which is in the hands of the State Department.

Time's cruel hand has been laid on the original signed Declaration of Independence, which document is very faded, and many of the signatures are faded or illegible, while others can be read only with a strong glass. Much of this fading of the Declaration is due to the method by which the first facsimile was obtained. About 1820 a press copy of the original was made and from that a copper plate was engraved. The fading of the ink in later years in the Department of the Interior, at the centennial exposition in Philadelphia and the Department of the State completed the fading process. It is now preserved in a locked safe, and by order of the Secretary of State is no longer on exhibition.

Custodian of Congressional Acts. This little bureau of the State Department is also the custodian of the original acts of Congress, and has charge of the promulgation of the laws of the United States. Originally bills were enrolled in writing on parchment, but in the last ten years they have been printed on parchment, which is a great improvement. In order that there may be no delay in the promulgation of the laws passed by Congress the bureau at once certifies a copy of each law to the warrant division of the Treasury Department, and until that action is recorded no action is taken in the payment of any funds will be taken by the Treasury Department, and since, in many cases, millions of dollars are involved it will be seen that the utmost care must be observed in the certification.

As custodian of all treaties, except postal conventions, the bureau of rolls and library of the State Department has charge of the promulgation of these treaties. Treaties are written in the languages of the contracting parties, and the authentic copies are submitted to the respective governments for ratification, and, if ratified, exchange is made at the place designated in the treaty, and each country receives a copy signed by the ruler of the other country. Exchange copies of treat-

ies are often very beautifully gotten up. Those made with China are usually handsomely embroidered, while Japan's are incased in lacquer boxes. In one case an ivory tube in the shape of a cannon was used. At the present time it is the custom of most countries to use the "snuff box" water seal. Papers relating to international claims commissions, such as the French spoliation claims, Alabama claims, Mexican, French and American, Venezuelan and the late Boxer claims against China, are on record here, with decisions, maps and records of various boundaries and boundary commissions. The library of the State Department is an outgrowth of the resolution of Congress passed September 23, 1789, which provided for a working library for the Secretary of State and his assistants, confining its collection to the exclusive needs of the department. It comprises books on the laws of nations, and its branches text books, histories of foreign countries, foreign biographies and similar books of reference. In 1882 the library was annexed to the division of rolls. It has but a working force of three persons, in addition to the chief, and requires an annual appropriation of only \$2,000.

Stone From China's Wall. Having seen the Declaration of Independence, visitors to the State Department library, on turning around, see a strange article neatly incased in a prominent position near the historical documents of the nation. It is a brick or block of crumbling weathered stone, whose congealed constituency time is turning to white powder. This brick looks like any other rectangular block of stone, but it has a history. It is one of the original stones from the ancient great wall of China, and has enjoyed the happy old age of 2,000 years. It is contemporary with the palmy days of the great wall, and was formerly part of the most stupendous work of mankind, for the great wall of China embraces more masonry of naval interest. Mr. Stewart is a graduate of the Naval Academy in the class of '81 and has a brilliant sea record.

In addition to the 5,000 engravings and pictures in the Navy Department library is a collection of 40,000 books, which includes some of the rarest volumes in Washington. John Paul Jones' own personal memoirs in French, dated 1798, are on the same shelf with a Naval History of Portugal in Latin, printed in the days of Queen Elizabeth of England. A text-book used in the British navy over two hundred years ago, known as Sea Dialogues, printed in London in 1688, tells of the early methods of flogging and keelhauling in the king's navy. In quaint English it tells of the cruel way in which the sailors were suspended from the yard-arms of frigates and ducked with baskets of bullets fastened about their necks as a punishment for crime. If the crime was a heinous one, keelhauling was resorted to. This consisted of hauling them all the way under the keel of the vessel and up to death while he was shaking the sea water from his ears. So frequent were these punishments, the book states, that the captain would not give a fair wind if a few of the boys were not keel-hauled every Monday morning. Every flag known to navies and commerce is pictured and described in a book printed in Dutch in 1685, as a reference book in the Dutch navy when that nation was one of the foremost seafaring nations of the globe.

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Naval War Records. Washington's finest collection of rare old engravings and naval records are kept in the archives of the library of the Navy Department as part of the naval war records. Thousands of valuable engravings, paintings and photographs are on file in this library. Most of them include portraits of prominent naval commanders in the history of the United States, pictures of vessels that have flown the Stars and Stripes and civil war photographs. This collection is equipped almost to complete-

ness and will be invaluable in time to come. Every craft that ever won the Stars and Stripes as a unit of Uncle Sam's navy has its picture in this gallery of naval history. It includes a photograph of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor taken on the afternoon of the day of the explosion. One rare old engraving made October, 1863, shows the Dutch fleet under Tromp in its victory over the Spanish and Portuguese fleets under Ocando. Another engraving made in 1646 shows a delineation of the naval war of the Venetians against the Turks at the Dardanelles. Other rare engravings that cannot be duplicated are those of the engagement between the Don Homme Richard and the Serapis, which was made for Capt. Pierson of the Serapis in 1799; the Constitution, in the bay of Naples, and the explosion of the Intrepid off Tripoli. There are fine engravings of John Paul Jones, Truxton, Farragut, Porter, Foote and other naval chieftains. The collection of the country for rare and original engravings of naval interest. Mr. Stewart is a graduate of the Naval Academy in the class of '81 and has a brilliant sea record.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.
APPRENTICE CLASS FOR POSITIONS—NEW BOOKS.

The District Public Library expects soon to admit its fifth apprentice class. These classes are composed of those who are seeking appointments to junior positions on the library staff. To be admitted to the class applicants must have the equivalent of a high school education and must pass a written examination in history, literature and general information. No one is admitted who does not definitely seek a position in the Public Library. The course is six months in length. There are no tuition fees, but there is also no remuneration. The library does not guarantee positions to those who finish the course, but nearly all who have completed it successfully during the last four years have been offered positions.

As the number required for the next class is not quite complete, the library is desirous of securing other applications. Applicants must be in good health and between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five. Circulars of information and forms for application may be secured from the library by personal or written application.

The following books have been added recently to the library:

History: America.
Beall, Mrs. M. S. Story of the Washington Coast and of the Powell Coach now at Mount Vernon. 1908. F833-E36.
Benton, E. J. International Law and Diplomacy of the Spanish-American War. 1908. F857-B147.
Brooks, H. M. comp. Olden Time Series: Gleaming Glimpses From Old Newspapers of Boston and Salem. 6v. 1886. F833-B735.
Ellis, G. E. The Red Ann and the White Man in North America. 1882. F80-E153.
Fisher, S. G. The Struggle for American Independence. 1907. F832-Sm53.
Farkman, Francis. Historic Handbook of the Northern Tour. Lakes George and Champlain; Niagara; Montreal; Quebec. 1887. F831-F23.
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Steiner, E. C. Maryland During the English Civil Wars. 1907. F837-SG146m.

History: Europe.
Ady, C. M. A History of Milan Under the Sforza. 1907. F33M-Ad5h.
Beaufort, Louis. Marie de Medici and the French Court in the XVIIth Century; tr. fr. the French. 1908. F392-B328.

C.W. STUART NAVY LIBRARY PHOTO BY C. PARKER

NAVY DEPARTMENT LIBRARY

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The original plan of the picket launch which Cushing constructed during the civil war and which he blew up in the Confederate ram Albemarle is kept in Mr. Stewart's office. This plan is well preserved in spite of the fact that it was formerly used as a fire screen. Other pictures and plans of this wonderful little picket launch and hundreds of other ships, such as the Housatonic and the ram that sank her, are on file here. A complete set of pictures of the Red

river campaign at Alexandria, La., and thereabouts in the civil war period, and another set of photographs of the Rogers expedition against Korea in June, 1871, when the United States was engaged in a bloody war with the average person realizes, make this collection interesting.

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STATE DEPARTMENT LIBRARY

It was founded in Philadelphia in the early 18th of the eighteenth century, before the seat of government had been moved to the District of Columbia. This library also has a large collection of photographs and engravings.

Brady Civil War Photographs.

The Brady collection of civil war photographs, for which the government paid \$25,000, is divided between the Navy and War libraries. More than 5,500 large volumes of the documents of the House of Representatives, bound in sheep and marked with serial numbers, are incased here. They are a library in themselves. More than 8,000 volumes on military science can be referred to here, in addition to the official records of the war of the rebellion, of which there are three sets, two loaning sets and one reserve set, which never goes out of the library. There is also a complete set of the original journals of the Senate and House of Representatives, which is a very rare collection of books. A unique gathering of newspaper clippings on the Spanish-American war, comprising twenty large folio volumes, to be found on the shelves of this library, has the proud distinction of being the only set of its kind in existence. It cost the government more than \$1,000. Bound volumes of eighteenth century newspapers, the National Intelligencer from 1806 to 1860, the Washington Globe from 1831 to 1869 and a perfect set of Niles' Register, in addition to numerous indexes, dictionaries and grammars in thirty different languages, and a set of 100 books on Esperanto, the universal language, are in the War Department library for reference. Other comes in this collection are official gazettes of Madrid, Manila, Havana and Porto Rico in almost complete series for the last thirty years of the nineteenth century, and twenty-three orderly books of the American revolution, besides a large number of printed rosters and office reports in connection with the early American wars. There is also a set of albums of the Spanish-American war prepared by the War Department, which are the only original ones outside of four private sets.

Much credit is due to James W. Cheney, librarian of the War Department, a graduate of Dartmouth College, for the excellence of his collection, and an evidence of its serviceability and completeness comes from Ida Tarbell, the author of the "History of the Standard Oil Company," who insists that she finds the War Department library more complete for the ordinary purposes of man than the library of Congress. The general staff of the army has supervision over the library, and books are lent to army officers in all parts of the world, and also on expeditions traveling or stationed in foreign countries. This library is extensively used by the War Department officials. The same membership applies to the Navy Department library, naval officers and officials of the Navy Department having older than the government of Washington, free use of the volumes.

By Meredith Nicholson

Author of THE HOUSE OF A THOUSAND CANDLES, Rosalind at Red Gate, The Port of Missing Men, The Main Chance, &c.

The Little Brown Jug at Kildare is the striking title of Meredith Nicholson's new novel.

The plot of this new story is of a decidedly humorous character. It inclines to comedy even more than to romance, and, as befits this year of the Presidential election, deals with high politics as well as high jinks.

It is indeed the only veracious record of what the Governor of North Carolina actually did say to the Governor of South Carolina.

The House of a Thousand Candles, by Meredith Nicholson, has been translated into practically every language of Continental Europe, and now a Japanese translation is contemplated. The Little Brown Jug at Kildare shows every indication of repeating the success of its popular predecessors.

The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Publishers.